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The questions in the chapter reviews are such as an even slightly intelligent teacher could put. Questions of a suggestive type, which any teacher might have to spend some time in framing, could very well have been put in place of the purely "quiz" questions on the text.

Unimportant topics have been eliminated remarkably well, but there are several lapses in this respect. Such a one appears on p. 240, where, after Genet's recall, we are told: "He did not return to France to live, however, but remained in the State of New York, married the daughter of Governor Clinton, devoted his attention to agriculture, and died in 1834." A proneness to insert too many names and dates and a very inaccurate drawing of latitudinal lines in the map on p. 34 are minor defects.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

*Studies in American Jurisprudence.* By THEODORE F. C. DEMAREST. (New York: The Banks Law Publishing Company. 1906. Pp. xviii, 359.)

This treatise might better be named *Studies in the Law of New York*. However each chapter may be named, the reader is quite sure, before long, to find himself invited to investigate the soundness of some judicial decision rendered in that State or the scope of some provision in its codes.

It is a poor book. One is wearied by the sophomoric and ill-jointed style, as well as by the elephantine humor. The author writes, he tells us, to give himself "the boon of beguiling the donor of a leisure hour into paths, rugged indeed, and sometimes reproached with undue aridity, where tower venerable and majestic growths, the fruitage of which, though hanging high, and of hardy pericarp, yields, to the breaker, kernels of intellectual nutrition, unrivaled by the fairer harvests whose burnished clusters glow and regale in the gardens of the imagination."

The chapter on the Office of President of the United States is the freest from local color. The author announces that he has attempted to "confine attention to the office apart from personality, and to consider history and the law, without wandering into Utopia, or doling *ex cathedra* dialectics." A shade of doubt is cast upon his success in this respect when, after explaining that sovereignty is no attribute of any American official, he adds that "the adulatory aspirant may find himself able to contemplate, without convulsions, the spectacle of a sole corporation

clothed with majesty and loaded as to his pockets with innumerable sovereignties, hurled right and left, in rotation, at crying needs or evils which are neglected by the Constitution, congress and courts" (p. 59), although it must be admitted that "occasions inevitably supervene when a physical and nervous necessity demands a vent for the automatic initiative by way of a referendum to the Colorado *felidæ* or a pursuit of the bear through the wind-falls of the Rockies" (p. 80).

"Is," he goes on to ask, "Jefferson's word of warning that the tyranny of the executive will arrive in its turn, coming true? Is this the age of executive usurpation? No. Our president is confessedly a magistrate. This is a generic term. The medieval battles between nominalists and realists left the world convinced that a genus is nothing, and must be reduced to a species before we have a recognizable entity. Hence by virtue of the retention of the magisterial functions of the Plantagenet and Norman rulers, all American governors, senators, judges, president, and sultan of Sulu enjoy in common a mild preëminence which no thoughtful and benevolent mind will begrudge them" (p. 75). "Nevertheless," says the author, with an eye on Macaulay's New Zealander in the wastes of buried London, "the prophecy of Jefferson will be fulfilled in that late age when the future antiquarian, in latitude 40° 42' 43" N., longitude 74° 0' 3" W., delving deep in the lava bed of Storm King, turned volcano, shall lift from her crumbling, upstretched arm, the lightless torch of the Statue of Liberty" (p. 88).

It is superfluous to add that this book merits no place among works of political science.

*The American Lawyer: As He Was, as He Is, as He Can Be.* By JOHN R. DOS PASSOS. (New York: Banks Law Publishing Company. 1907. Pp. 185.)

This book is a violent attack upon the American lawyer. To the author our bar seems far inferior to that of the era closing with the Civil War (pp. 12, 33, 46); given over, in the argument of causes, to an ignoble hunt for ruling precedents instead of a search for determining principles; besotted by idolatry of codification (p. 51); ignorant of its obligations to the State; solicitous mainly to make money, and to make it with little regard to what may be the rules of professional ethics. To write in this vein upon any subject, is an easy way to challenge public attention. It is what helps so much to carry the ten cent monthlies and